

The Evening Star

Tuesday - 3 November 1959

President Lays Cornerstone at CIA Building

Says Information Is Used to Chart Policy for Peace

President Eisenhower stressed that America's foreign intelligence operations "serve the cause of peace" in laying the cornerstone of the new Central Intelligence Agency Building at Langley, Va., today.

Approximately 2,000 persons attended the outdoor ceremony of the \$46 million structure scheduled for completion in July, 1961.

The President, asserting that this Government constantly seeks to develop policies to make peace permanent and just, said information about conditions and attitudes prevailing in the world is essential in policy-making.

It is CIA's task to provide information of this kind to help develop policies to preserve peace, he added.

"Upon the quality of your work," Mr. Eisenhower told CIA employees, "depends in large measure the success of our effort to further the Nation's position in the international scene."

Secret Aspects Stressed

He said that success of CIA efforts "cannot be advertised" and "failure cannot be explained" because of the very nature of intelligence work.

But, the President said, CIA's reputation for quality and excellence under Director Allen Dulles "is a proud one."

Mr. Eisenhower said it was a "great privilege" to participate in laying the cornerstone for the agency's new national headquarters.

"On this spot," he added, "will rise a beautiful and useful structure. May it long endure, to serve the cause of peace."

Introduced by Dulles

Introducing the President, Mr. Dulles said:

"In this work of intelligence we must not forget that human beings are largely the creatures of their beliefs."

Mr. Dulles said that "In the field of our relations with our fellowmen abroad, let us assure ourselves, through accurate intelligence, that our attachments to policies are soundly based."

The motto to be inscribed on the face of the building is "Ye Shall Know the Truth and the Truth Shall Make You Free," Mr. Dulles said.

Among those who participated in laying the cornerstone were Defense Secretary McElroy and Robert Murphy, retiring Undersecretary of State. Seven silver-plated trowels were used to spread mortar before the large white cornerstone was lowered on a pulley operated by a workman.

En route to the ceremony at CIA, President Eisenhower stopped at Spout Run to cut a ribbon opening a new 5-mile section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, from Locom Lane to Route 123.

New Road Opened

The section was opened shortly after the CIA ceremony. Although the extension goes all the way to the CIA site, traffic will be shunted off at the cloverleaf intersection with Virginia Route 123.

Contracts have already been let to carry the parkway beyond CIA to connect with the projected Washington circumferential highway at Cabin John.

The presidential ceremony took no more than 2 minutes. Mr. Eisenhower, wearing a gray felt hat and gray tweed overcoat, was handed two pairs of gold-plated scissors bearing the National Park Service seal by Rogel Ernst, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Parks.

After clipping the red, white and blue ribbon in two places, Mr. Eisenhower was presented with one of the shears as a memento of the occasion. The President also kept a bit of the ribbon as a trophy.

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DATE: 28 APR 1988

AUTH: 100-100

DATE: 28 APR 1988

REVIEWER: 029125